

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical needle, which comprises:

an elongated needle body defining a longitudinal y-axis along which the needle body extends and transverse x and z-axes, the needle body including a central shaft portion, a first
5 suture end portion for attachment to a suture and a second needled end portion for penetrating tissue, the needled end portion having three sides which intersect to define three cutting edges and terminate at a needle point, at least one side including a pair of planar surface portions arranged in oblique relation to define a general concave appearance to the one side, the needled end portion further defining an enlarged transition portion adjacent the central shaft section with at least an x-
10 dimension substantially greater than a corresponding x-dimension of the central shaft.

2. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein each of the three sides include the planar surface portions arranged in oblique relation to define a general concave appearance to the respective side.

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3. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein the enlarged transition portion defines a z- dimension greater than a corresponding z-dimension of the central shaft portion.

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4. The surgical needle according to claim 3 wherein the x-dimension and z-dimension correspond to the height and width respectively of the needle end portion.

5. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein the planar surface portions of the one side intersect to define an included angle ranging from about 160° to about 175°.

5 6. The surgical needle according to claim 5 wherein the included angle is about 170°.

7. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein two of the cutting edges intersect at the needle point and define an angle of about 22° to about 25°.

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8. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein the central shaft portion defines a distal shaft transition portion adjacent the needled end portion, the distal shaft portion defining a cross-section of general triangular character.

15 9. The surgical needle according to claim 8 wherein the distal shaft portion includes three planar surfaces interconnected by rounded surfaces.

10. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the three sides is substantially planar.

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11. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the three sides is substantially concave.

12. A surgical needle, which comprises:

an elongated needle body defining a longitudinal y-axis along which the needle body extends and transverse x and z-axes, the needle body including a central shaft portion, a first suture end portion for attachment to a suture and a second needled end portion for penetrating tissue, the needled end portion having three sides which intersect to define three cutting edges and terminate at a needle point, each side including a pair of planar surface portions arranged in oblique relation to define a general concave appearance to the one side, the needled end portion further defining an enlarged transition portion adjacent the central shaft section with an x-dimension at least substantially equal to a corresponding x-dimension of the central shaft.

13. The surgical needle according to claim 12 wherein the enlarged transition portion defines an x- dimension greater than a corresponding x-dimension of the central shaft portion.

14. The surgical needle according to claim 13 wherein the enlarged transition portion defines a z- dimension at least substantially equal to a corresponding z-dimension of the central shaft.

15. The surgical needle according to claim 14 wherein the enlarged transition portion defines a z- dimension greater than a corresponding z-dimension of the central shaft portion.